



# A SOLEMN QUESTION !

Can the Protestants Conscientiously Build up the Churches of the Pope ?

BY THE

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## LETTER OF REV. DR. HODGE.

MY DEAR SIR,—The question proposed in your letter is one to which wise and good men have given different answers.

Some say that as the Romish Church teaches serious error, as the influence of that Church is everywhere, and from its nature, hostile to civil and religious liberty, therefore it is wrong to grant it any voluntary support or direct encouragement.

Others say that, inasmuch as the Roman Catholic Church teaches truth enough to save the souls of men (of which I have no doubt); inasmuch as it proclaims the Divine authority of the Scriptures, the obligation of the Decalogue, and the retributions of eternity; and inasmuch as it calls upon men to worship God, the Father, Son and Spirit, it is unspeakably better than no church at all. And, therefore, when the choice is between that and none, it is wise and right to encourage the establishment of churches under the control of Catholic priests.

For myself I take this latter view. The principle cannot be carried out that no church should be encouraged which teaches error. For then we could help none but our own. And the principle involves the absurdity that a little error is more powerful for evil than a great deal of truth for good.

Of course public men should act on Christian principles, and if it is wrong for a private Christian to help a Catholic Church, it must be wrong for a corporation to do so.

While, therefore, I dread the influence of the Romish Church, and recognize its corruptions in doctrine and worship, I nevertheless believe that it is far better that men should be Roman Catholics than infidels or atheists. Romanists teach people to worship Christ, and to regard and acknowledge Him as the *Salvator Hominum*.

Very truly, your friend, &c.,

CHARLES HODGE.

## REPLY BY REV. C. CHINIQUY.

DEAR SIR,—Since I accepted, by the great mercy of God, the truth as it is in Jesus, and renounced the errors of Rome, I have now and then, heard many strange things about the doctrines of that Church. But nothing looks to me so strange and saddening as the letter which Dr. Hodge of Princeton, has written to approve the Protestants who build up the churches of Rome. I have just read that letter in your issue of the 24th of August. And though it seems an act of folly, on my part, to publicly protest against the views of such a learned theologian, my conscience tells me that it is an imperious duty to raise my feeble voice against the manifest and so dangerous errors contained in that document.

If Dr. Hodge had not so many titles to the respect and gratitude of the Protestant community, if he were not truly one of the most shining lights of our firmament, and if his long and matchless services, in the defense of truth, had not given him such a just title to the confidence of all, his error would not be so fatal and deplorable; and I would remain silent. My humble position, my very insignificance would be my excuse in my own eyes for remaining as a mute dog in the presence of danger. Even to-day I am tempted to say to my alarmed conscience: “hold your tongue; be still and quiet,—you are “in the presence of a Giant,—with a knock of his little finger, he can “pulverize you,—let those errors go their way and spread,—you can’t “help; these ugly stones coming from such a high mountain, roll with “an irresistible power,—you will surely be crushed down if you are “fool enough to put yourself in their way and try to stop them.”

But I see too clearly the errors of Dr. Hodge. I know too well the incalculable injuries they will do to the cause of Christ, to allow myself to be guided by any selfish fear. Though the humblest and the weakest soldier of Jesus, I have heard him say to all those enrolled



under his banners, "Fear not." Many times, the humblest sentinel, from the most ignored out-post, has saved the army, by sounding the alarm in due time.

Dr. Hodge gives three principal reasons for approving the Protestants who build the Churches of Rome. 1st. The Church of Rome teaches truths enough to save the souls of men. 2nd. It proclaims the Divine authority of the "Scriptures,—the obligations of the Decalogue, &c. 3rd. The Romanists teach people to worship Christ and acknowledge him as the Saviour of the world."

If these assertions are correct, Luther and Calvin, Knox, &c., would be the most guilty men of modern times, and the millions of martyrs whom Rome has slaughtered would be nothing else but rebels justly punished. If the Church of Rome's teachings can save souls, why should we continue to protest against the great soul-saving Church? and why do we not go to the feet of the Pope to make our peace with him?

Dr. Hodge is a mighty logician, I know it, and he has probably many brilliant theories in store to support his position. But the more arguments he will bring to prove that Rome is a soul-saving church, and that she is a true worshipper of Christ, the better he will prove that Luther and Calvin with their hundred millions of Protestant followers, Dr. Hodge included, were and are to-day, the greatest fools and the most wicked of men, for having made so much noise, caused so much shedding of blood, to get out of the chains of Rome; the more he will prove the verity of the Rev. Mr. Ecker: "Protestantism is a failure." And if the learned theologian of Princeton can persuade the Protestants that they do well to build Churches for the Romanists, the surer he will make the prophecy of that same Ecker good: "Before 25 years the United States will be Roman Catholic!"

Had Dr. Hodge been, as I have been, a Priest of Rome a quarter of a century, he would have spared his friends and admirers the surprise and sadness we have felt at his strange views on that matter.

I do not pretend to say that I am perfectly sure of what the learned Divine means by "Truth enough to save the soul," and I would like to know his mind more positively on that subject. But before I have that favour, I must bear testimony to the truth and say: "After 25 years of experience and study as a Priest of Rome, I do not know a single truth which that Apostate Church has kept in-tact and unmixed with the most diabolical and damnable errors." Let us take the nature, eternity, holiness and independence of God, for instance, as revealed in Christ, and by Christ. What is the God of the Roman

Catholic Church seen, or known through the doctrine of Transubstantiation? A God made with a piece of bread, by a man! Just as Aaron took the gold of the Israelites, melted it, turned it into a golden calf and said to the people: "These are thy Gods, O Israel, who brought you out of the Land of Egypt."

So the Priest of Rome said to his servant girl, "I want to carry the good God (La Bon Dieu), to a sick man to-morrow—but there are no more in the tabernacle—make me fifty wafers, or little cakes, that I may consecrate them." And the domestic mixes the flour with some water, bakes the whole between two red irons, on which there is a cross engraved with the abridged name of Christ. Then she takes her scissors, and cuts those cakes, which are originally about five inches large, cuts them into small round wafers, one inch large—and respectfully hands them to the Priest. The next morning that same Priest takes those small round wafers to the altar, pronounces five magical words, and showing to the people the wafers, which are now turned into as many Gods, he says: "This is our God—this is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world—adore Him," and the whole people, with the Priest himself, falling on their knees, and with the face in the dust, "adore and worship the new born, or new made God!"

I ask it—where is the difference between this modern abomination and the idolatry of the Israelites? The only difference is that the Jewish idolatry was of a short duration, they did not stick to it, they gave it up the next day, and shed tears of repentance. But the iniquity, the awful idolatry of Rome is a permanent fact. Their wafer God—their God made by a Priest with the help of his servant girl, is the basis, the life, the grand, constant and public object of their adoration! I know that the Romanists and the Jesuits have very curious, though very ridiculous arguments to bind the poor slaves of the Pope, and prove them that the adoration of the wafer God is not idolatry. But I hope that Dr. Hodge will not prostitute his high intelligence in attempting to help the sophists of Rome in the efforts they make to prove to the world that a man can take a wafer, turn it into God, and worship that God which he has just made himself without being an idolator. But if Dr. Hodge confesses that the worship of the wafer God is an idolatrous act, how can he say that Rome teaches truth enough to save the soul!

Through her sacrilegious and idolatrous sacrifice of the mass, the Church of Rome has not only dragged back the modern world to the idolatry of the old paganism, but she has added to the brutalising and

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degrading dogmas of the Priests of Jupiter and Venus. During the 25 years that I was a priest of Rome, almost every morning I had to turn into God, a wafer made by my servant girl. I was assured by my Church that this was my true Saviour, my true God! After that I had to eat it, in the same way that I eat the food which is on my table! And there are more than 100,000 Priests of Rome, who to-day, believe and do preach the same monstrous things.

Nay—you do not probably meet a single priest in the streets, or in the cars who does not carry a dozen of those wafer Gods in his vest or pantaloons pockets! and we are gravely told that the church teaches saving truth about God! Well, if the Revd. Theologian of Princeton really believes that the Priests of Rome have the power to change the water into his very Saviour and God, why does he not go to worship Him at the feet of their altars! But if, as I am certain of it, that great christian man would prefer to be thrown into a burning furnace, to adore the wafer-God of Rome, how can he tell us that there is no sin to help to build temples for such a sacriligious and idolatrous worship?

We are gravely told in that letter that the "Romanists teach "Christ, and regard him as the Saviour of the world!" Into what strange illusions good and learned men are sometimes apt to fall. In writing these lines, the celebrated Theologian no doubt consulted more the kind disposition of his christian heart, than his vast erudition. When the Protestants meet their Roman Catholic neighbours, when they listen to the interesting lectures, or read some of their learned books, then they see their smiling lips, their refined manners; they like to conclude that such amiable and learned men are true worshippers of Christ. It does them good to live in that illusion; they do not even like to hear any thing contrary than what they consider the only charitable and christian way to think of their neighbours. So Rome has many ways to deceive even the most intelligent and learned ones—she is so expert in the art of entrapping and bewitching the souls! Is it not written of that wonderful church that it "will come after the "working of Satan, with all power and signs, and lying wonders—"with all deceivableness of unrighteousness?"

But the kind and christian (though mistaken) feelings of Dr. Hodge and some other Protestants towards the Roman Catholics, will not change the awful truth. The Apostate Church of Rome has long since forsaken and forgotten the real Divine Christ of the Gospel, and has forged another Christ to suit her pride, her lust and her unquenchable thirst of power and human glory.



The Christ of the Gospel is the only corner-stone of his Church. But the Church of Rome has granted that privilege to Peter. The Christ of the Gospel is the only head of his Church—but the Christ of Rome said: "It is the Pope who is the head of the Church." The Christ of the Gospel has promised his Holy Ghost to *all* his Disciples, even to the humblest ones, to guide them in all their ways and teach them the sense of His holy words. But the Christ of Rome has promised his Holy Ghost *only* to the Pope, who *alone* has the intelligence of the Scriptures, and the knowledge of the truth. The Christ of Rome says to the sinner: "Go to Mary and you shall be saved." The Christ of the Gospel is the incarnate love towards sinners. He loves them,—He likes to be called their friend,—He constantly prays for them with a love and mercy that no human language can express. But the Christ of Rome is constantly angry against sinners—he would not listen to their prayers; he would shut his ears to their humble supplications, if His Mother were not constantly reminding him of the price he has paid and the blood he has shed for them. The Christ of the Gospel is God and man; as God He is eternal as His Father, He could have no mother. But the Christ of Rome is a quite modern God; he is born about 1872 years ago, his mother is Mary, who, everywhere is invoked and called the Mother of God by the Romanists.

As Dr. Hodge is a good logician, he will easily find that if Mary is the Mother of God, Saint Anne, who is the mother of Mary, and Joachim, who is her father, must be truly the Grand-Mother and Grand-Father of the God of Rome, and Adam his Grand-Grand-Father! A most marvellous fact, which, when well understood, will make it more christian for the Protestants to raise Temples to a God who has such glorious Grand-Mothers and Grand-Fathers.

It is true, as Dr. Hodge says, that the Church of Rome calls her Christ, "The Saviour of the world." But this is just as when his executioners called him "King of Israel." It is a mockery. For the very moment after she has called "Christ the Saviour of the world," she goes to Mary and she calls her also "The Saviour of the world."

Rome says most eloquently in many of her books, that Jesus is the *hope*, the *refuge* and the salvation of sinners. But this is only to throw dust into the eyes of good and unsuspecting men as Dr. Hodge. Turn the page and you will see that, with still more eloquence, she calls Mary "the only hope, refuge and salvation of sinners—the door of Heaven!"

If some Popes tell you that it is through Jesus that every grace

comes to men, and that He is the surest foundation of our hope, that glorious truth in the Church of Rome is only a blind to deceive—for many more infallible Popes will assure you, in their infallible encyclicals, that *it is Mary who is the surest foundation of our hope*. I will not insult Dr. Hodge by giving the names of the Popes and the documents which proclaim those plain, clear blasphemous doctrines, for he knows them very well.

Because Aaron called his golden calf "The great God who had brought Israel from Egypt," is Doctor Hodge ready to say that Aaron was really worshipping the God of Heaven, when sacrificing to the God-calf? How then can that learned man tell us that the Romanists worship the true Christ Jesus of the Gospel, when they worship their wafer-God? It is true that they call that wafer-God *Jesus the Saviour of the world*. But does the calling of that wafer the Saviour of the world, the God-man, change the nature of that wafer, and make it really the Son of God and the Saviour of the world? If it is so, we must go and adore that new God made by the Priest of Rome in his tabernacles. Who will do such an act of idolatry? Let us then confess that that wafer cannot be Christ and God. But that wafer is the *only* Christ the Romanists have—it is at his feet that they pray day and night, through their "Perpetual adoration Societies," it is through that wafer-Saviour and God that they offer their prayers to the Father! They proclaim every day, from one end to the other of the world, that the Jesus whom they acknowledge to be in Heaven, is no other than the Jesus whom the Priest has created with a piece of bread, and that the Christ who is in her tabernacle, is the same who is in Heaven.

But, again, is the learned man, who is the brightest christian glory of our continent, ready to confess that the wafer-God of Rome is really the Son of God, the Saviour of the world, the real Jesus, at the name of whom every knee must bend.

Then, again, how can he tell us that Rome really and verily recognizes the Christ of the Gospel and worships him, when, in fact, she worships nothing but a little idol of bread? Every page of the history of the Church of Rome, these last thousand years, proves that the Christ whom Rome worships is not the Christ of the Gospel, and the Gospel she preaches is not the Gospel which Christ has given us.

The *true* Christ was meek and humble and merciful, he rebuked his apostles when they wanted to punish those who rejected him. He proclaimed liberty of conscience among men. But the Christ of Rome is a bloody monster, who, through his infallible vicar, the Pope, has

approved the slaughter of the St. Bartholomew, and covered Europe with rivers of blood and tears.

No! the Christ of Rome, with his hatred of liberty, his constant opposition to every human progress: his infallible Pope: his Holy Inquisitions: his hatred of the Bible, can not be the true Christ who is worshipped at Princeton Seminary. It is an old false God, smuggled by the Pope from the old Pantheon of Rome, presented to the world under the name of Christ!

No! the Christ whom I have made, during the twenty-five years, with the help of my servant girl, and with a wafer—the Christ who, through his vicar, the Pope, has made me believe the most monstrous lies, who has persuaded me that his body, his blood, his Divinity, could be verily and substantially eaten by me, can not be the Son of the God of truth. He is the father of lies and deceptions; and the disciples of the true Christ, who raise temples to that spurious Christ of the Popes, may be good, honest, sincere Christians, but they are mistaken. They give a helping hand to the greatest enemy of the Gospel; they build up the Bible-burning church! they strengthen those who, after having destroyed the Bible, will have no rest till they destroy every vestige of liberty and true Christianity on earth, even if they have to wade to their knees in the blood of the disciples of the Gospel. The Protestants who build up the churches of Rome, give help and strength to the enemy.

Rev. Dr. Hodge says of the Church of Rome; “She proclaims the divine authority of the Scriptures, and he takes that as his ground for approving those who build up the churches of the Pope. What would the good Doctor think and say, were I going to him with a golden cup half filled with the purest water: but after having put as much arsenic as there is water in the cup, I would tell him; “please sir, drink; this is good and refreshing water?” Would he not repulse me with horror, and justly call me a murderer?

Now, what is the Church of Rome doing with the Gospel? Does she not offer it to the people *only* after she has mixed it with her poisonous tradition? Does not the Church of Rome, in the most absolute and positive way, say that the written Gospel (which we call the Scriptures), is only a part, an unfinished fragment of the Gospel? Can Dr. Hodge ignore that the Council of Trent has put the tradition (which they call the unwritten word of God), on a level with the written gospel? that the one is of as much divine authority as the other; that the one has to be received with the same respect as the other; that to reject the one is to reject the other! and that the Roman

Catholic is not allowed to drink the waters of life, except when mixed with the deadly poisons, the arsenical preparations of Popery?

The learned Theologian says that Rome proclaims the divine authority of the Scriptures; but he forgets that it is only on condition that we receive the holy Scriptures in the light of Romish traditions. For Rome proclaims the divine authority of the Scriptures, but only with the condition that, under that name, we accept the Divine origin and authority of the traditions about purgatory, transubstantiation, indulgences, auricular confession, Immaculate conception, Infallibility of the Pope, &c., &c. Does he really accept the meaning which that Church attaches to the *word* of God—holy Scriptures? Does he believe that by rejecting the authority of the one, he rejects the authority of the other? Then he is a good Roman Catholic, he is all right when he takes the side of the Priests of Rome and approves the Protestants who spend money in building the Churches of the Pope. But if he rejects, with horror, from his lips, the golden cup which Rome offers her blind slaves, then he is wrong. The mistake of Dr. Hodge is very common among the honest and unsuspecting Protestants of the United States. They too easily forget that the Church of Rome very often says one thing and means another quite different. When she speaks of the Holy Scriptures with an apparent respect, and proclaims their divinity, many think that she means only that blessed word of God, which is contained in the Holy Bible, as they have at Princeton College. But it is not so.

When Rome speaks of the word of God, the Holy Scriptures, she means the "Scriptures transmitted through the written and unwritten tradition." She means the Apocrypha, purgatory, celibacy, absolution, Mass, holy water, works of supererogation, worship of Mary, Infallibility, &c., &c.

She pretends to have the greatest respect for those two things when perfectly united in one body of doctrine. But she does not conceal her implacable hatred for the *true Scripture, the Bible*, as Dr. Hodge has it in his hands. That learned man seems to ignore that the Scripture, the Bible, separated from the traditions and the Romish commentaries, is absolutely declared a dangerous, a soul-destroying book by Rome, and the Council of Trent has forbidden the people to read it in their mother tongue. He also seems to have forgotten that the Bible Society, whose object is to give the Holy Scriptures unmixed with traditions, notes and comments has been, time after time declared by the Infallible Church of Rome to be an instrument of the Devil to destroy the souls of men. No doubt that the book of the "Index of

Rome" is in the Library of Princeton. Then let him consult the long list of books forbidden for their impiety and immorality; and he will find that his Bible is at the head of the list! Let him consult the pages of the history of France, Italy, Spain, Ireland, England, Canada, and even the history of the United States, and he will see that Rome, as often as she has found her opportunity, instead of proclaiming the divine authority of the true and unmixed Scriptures, has burned and destroyed them, as we burn and destroy a viper.

Yes, let him open the stores of his memory and vast science, and he will remember that, not only Rome has destroyed the true and unde-filed Holy Scriptures every time she could do it safely, but she has invariably condemned to death those who have been found guilty of reading the Bible.

The memory of Dr. Hodge cannot be so bad as to have made him forget that the Madii of Florence and the 12 noble young men in Spain, who, only yesterday, were condemned to death by the Holy Inquisition, for the unpardonable crime of having the Bible and reading it.

That great theologian, following more the instincts of his kind nature and christian feelings, than the teachings of history, assures us that the Church of Rome "proclaims the divine authority of the Scriptures!" Into what strange illusions the best men are sometimes apt to fall! The Church of Rome proclaiming the divine authority of the Scriptures!!! yes, by putting the Holy Scriptures in the Index, at the head of the most damnable books which hell has ever inspired!

Rome proclaim the divinity of the Scriptures!!! Yes; by torturing in her dark and filthy dungeons; slaughtering on her gibbets; burning in her *autos da fe*, the Disciples of the dear Saviour who dare to read, love and follow those Holy Scriptures. Rome proclaims the authority of the Holy Scriptures, says Dr. Hodge—yes, says the history of these last thousand years; yes, answer millions of martyrs, she proclaims and acknowledges the Divinity of the Scriptures, just as the Jews acknowledged and proclaimed the Divinity of Christ, by spitting in his face, flogging him, nailing him on a cross as a criminal, and killing him between two thieves!

There are many deplorable things to be seen among the Protestants of the United States. But one of the most deplorable is the fatal tendency of so many to ignore the great apostacy and the abominations of Rome. In Europe, where Rome is better known, Principal Cunningham called the church "the masterpiece of Satan"—and sure she is the masterpiece of Satan. But what a sad spectacle we have under



our eyes on this continent! almost everywhere the Bible burning church of the Pope, instead of being sternly opposed by the children of God, is petted, helped, enriched, encouraged, strengthened, praised by the greatest part of them. Every where, with very little exception, the Protestants, shutting their eyes to the silent, but rapid progress of Rome, sleep when the enemy is raising and arming his impregnable citadels, training his innumerable legions and sharpening his sword for the approach and inevitable contest.

But there will soon be an awakening; and it will be a terrible one. When the Protestants will see the extent of their incredible folly, in so betraying the interests of Truth and Liberty into the hands of their greatest enemy, it will be too late? There will be, then, a Roman, Catholic President in Washington. The armies of the Great Republic will then be commanded by Roman Catholic generals and officers; the fleets will be commanded by Roman Catholic Admirals, and the fortresses will be in the hands of Roman Catholic traitors. Then the treasurers and the immense resources of this magnificent country, will be at the mercy of the Jesuits, at the service of the Pope, and the flag of Liberty will be trampled in the dust. Then the American people, who are to-day sold into the hands of Rome by their Politicians, and lulled asleep by their Theologians, will understand that when Rome speaks of the Divine authority of the Scriptures, it only means that the Bible must be dragged out of the schools *and* torn away from the hands of the old and the young, to make a bon fire.

There are two things which Rome hates with an implacable hatred. It is the Bible and Liberty. At any cost Rome is bound to fight down those two things, till they will be completely destroyed. But the more she hates our dear Bible and our glorious liberty, the more she conceals her hatred, under the most deceptive words, and the most fictitious demonstrations of love and respect. It is just when she lays the surest and most perfidious plans to drag away the Bible from the school and the private house, that she proclaims, most eloquently, its divine authority. Just, as the murderer, who puts on a smiling face and a friendly countenance, at the approach of his victim, the better to prevent him from being on his guard. Thanks to the betrayals of the politicians, and the delusions of theologians. Except God makes a miracle to prevent it, the Bible and liberty are doomed in the United States.

Till lately, I have had my doubts about that deplorable issue. But these last few years' study of things and men here, makes it impossible to entertain any doubt about it. Blind indeed must be the man who

does not see the portentous signs which foretell that the days of liberty are numbered, and will be very short. With the hundred thousand Protestants, who give their daughters, their sons and their money to the Jesuits, and with the connivance, the silence, if not the public approbation, of thousands of ministers who dare not speak out, Rome is raising her proud banner on every hill, over every valley of the United States.

See how Rome is ruling in the midst of all our great cities, from New York to San Francisco; from Quebec to San Jago! It would require the united efforts, the stern energies of all the disciples of the Gospel, to put a stop to the giant power and aggressive work of Rome; but, instead of trying to defeat the public and grand conspiracy of Popery against Liberty and the Bible, the Protestants, with few exceptions, are trying with each other who will most efficiently give aid and comfort to the enemy.

Does Doctor Hodge ignore the ground the Church of Rome proclaims the divine authority of the Scriptures? But there is not a student at Princeton who does not know that the faith of Rome in the Holy Scriptures, and the so-called proclamation, by her, of their divine authority, are founded on what the logicians call a *Vicious Circle*.

Does not Rome boast that she receives the Holy Scriptures because they point to her as the only Infallible Church,—when, in the mean time, she refers us to those scriptures to prove the title she has to the supreme respect and submission of the nations? I ask it from you, Mr. Editor, and from every one of your intelligent readers, what is all that bombast of Rome about her faith in the divinity of the Scriptures, if it is not a castle built in a misty cloud high in the air. Who can believe in the divinity of a thing, in favour of which not a single reason can be given which can be accepted by common sense! Who will believe Rome proclaiming the divine authority of the Scriptures, when she has no other argument or reason to our intelligence than a vicious circle.

Is not that very proclamation of the divinity of the scriptures by Rome, from a vicious circle, an insult to common sense, an outrage to man and God, a public invitation from Satan to reject the Holy Scriptures?

Is not the proclamation of the divinity of the Holy Scriptures by Rome, when she has no other foundation of her faith than a vicious circle, the most infallible way to make those scriptures the object of contempt to every intelligent man—is it not the shortest way to sow the seeds of infidelity all over the world?

With her vicious circle as the foundation of her faith, the more Rome will speak of her Holy Scriptures, the less the world will believe in them—the louder she will make her proclamation, the surer the world will laugh at the holy scripture, and the more she will damage the cause of Christ. If France, Italy and Spain are peopled with infidels, who, under the name of Roman Catholics, reject Christ and His Gospel, it is due to that proclamation of the holy scriptures founded on a lie—an imposture, a vicious circle.

It is next to impossible for an intelligent man to accept the Divinity of the Scriptures, when they are presented by a church who has no other reason for her faith than a gross absurdity. If a profound logician like Dr. Hodge considered this fact with attention, he would not have put in the hands of Rome a document which she will use with such disastrous effect in the United States.

Though there is a great deal of show in the Church of Rome, there is no real faith, even among the priests. The little faith which remains has no more solidity than the building raised on the quicksand. From the highest to the lowest ranks of Rome, with very few exceptions, infidelity or skepticism is the rule; very few to-day, even among the priests of that apostate church, care anything for the scriptures.

They do not ask, "What saith the Lord?" but they ask, What saith the Pope? It is not necessary to be so profound a logician as the celebrated Theologian of Princeton, to understand that, "with an infallible Pope," there is no need of an Infallible Bible. It is just because the scriptures had ceased to be an authority in the Church of Rome, that it has been found necessary to provide another authority to guide the human intellect—as the holy Bible had ceased to be the oracle, the source of truth among the Roman Catholics, it was a question of life or death to find or invent a new oracle, a new fountain of truth and life. Yes, it became a *necessity* to proclaim an *infallible* Pope, the very day that the holy Scriptures had ceased from being an infallible guide. Many have misunderstood the terrible logic which forced the Roman Catholics, almost in spite of themselves, to proclaim the infallibility of the Pope. To every serious thinker, the proclamation of the dogma is a most natural, a most logical, fact. These last ten centuries, the Roman Catholic nations have sternly, but in vain, tried to resist the logical consequences of the false and Anti-Christian principles, which their church had accepted as divine truths. The proclamation of the infallibility of the Pope is not only the logical consequences of the rejection of the divine authority of the Scriptures

in the Church of Rome, it is also the last and ultimate effort of the apostate church to get for ever rid of those holy Scriptures, in every page of which she finds her condemnation written. From the profound thinker Bossuet, to the learned Montalembert, many intelligent Roman Catholics had foreseen and foretold, that the proclamation of the Infallibility would be a death-blow to the authority of the Scripture, and would sweep away the last Christian principle from their church.

But logic is stronger than men. When men, in a moment of blindness, have accepted a false principle, to replace a christian one which they have rejected, they are dragged, in spite of themselves, into its fatal consequences. By admitting the Divinity of traditions which were opposed to the holy Scriptures, the Roman Catholics had prepared for the rejection of the authority of those infallible oracles, and the necessity of finding some other infallible guide.

From one abyss, the Roman Catholics have fallen into a profounder one, with the same fatal necessity and irresistible law, by which a stone must roll to the bottom of the pit, the very moment the crumbling support on which it rested on the side of the precipice has been removed.

By proclaiming the Divine authority of the tradition which gives them an Infallible Pope, and by accepting that man as equal to God, in wisdom and science, the Roman Catholic Church has fallen to the bottom of an unfathomable abyss. Human folly and depravity could not go farther. The last link which united Rome to the Christian world has been cut. It is no more from Christ, speaking to Him through the Holy Ghost, in the Scriptures, that the Roman Catholic will receive the Truth—it is from the Pope. Christ and His Gospel are no more, the way, the truth, the life. It is the infallible Pope. By taking away the Corner-Stone, Christ, whom the Father had laid as the foundation of His Church, in order to give place to her infallible Pope, Rome has renewed on earth the awful rebellion of Lucifer in Heaven.

And the Protestants who build the churches of this modern Lucifer, like those who approve them, may be honest and learned, but they are mistaken men. *They give help and comfort to the enemy!* They are of those for whom Christ said on the cross: "Father, forgive them—they know not what they do."

C. CHINIQUEY.

ST. ANNE, KANKAKEE CO., ILLINOIS, 10th Oct., 1872.



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